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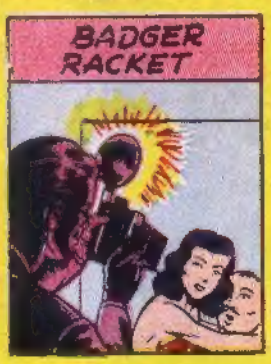
RACKET SQUAD IN ACTION



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THE Badger Racket !

THIS IS INSPECTOR J.J. O'MALLEY SPEAKING. HOW LONG THIS BADGER RACKET HAD BEEN GOING ON, NOBODY KNEW. BECAUSE NONE OF THE VICTIMS WOULD TELL! BUT IT WAS NEARING ITS CLIMAX THE NIGHT WHEN ELWOOD GLENN CHECKED IN AT THE PALACE HOTEL ...

AND YOU RECEIVED MY WIRE FOR A RESERVATION?
CERTAINLY, MR. GLENN. WE'RE ALWAYS GLAD TO HAVE YOU BACK AT THE PALACE HOTEL. WE'VE GIVEN YOU ROOM 608.
HOTE

ELWOOD GLENN, ROOM 608. APPARENTLY HE STOPS HERE OFTEN.
GOOD. THAT MEANS HE'S LESS LIKELY TO BEEF. WATCH FOR HIM IN THE COCKTAIL LOUNGE, MARCIA. IF HE SHOWS THERE, HE'S OUR PIGEON!

RACKET SQUAD IN ACTION

LATER...
GOOD EVENING, MR. GLENN. GLAD TO SEE YOU BACK. HERE'S A NICE TABLE, SIR..
OH, JIM.. I'M SO SORRY TO BE LATE.. WHY, WHY.. YOU AREN'T JIM.. I.. I'M SO SORRY..
RELAX, RELAX.
I'M MARCIA WELLINGTON AND I WAS SUPPOSED TO MEET MY HUSBAND JIM, RIGHT HERE, AN HOUR AGO..
HAVE A CIGARETTE AND ORDER YOURSELF A DRINK. WHEN JIM ARRIVES I'LL TAKE ANOTHER TABLE.
SO THIS IS WHERE YOU'VE BEEN HIDING ALL THE PAST HOUR!
BUT JIM, I ONLY JUST ARRIVED. THIS IS MR. GLENN. HE AND I HAVE BEEN SMOKING AND CHATTING..
SORRY.. I MUST BE GOING.
NICE GOING, JIM. HE SCARED SO FAST THAT HE FORGOT HIS CIGARETTE CASE.
GOOD. THAT GIVES YOU AN EXCUSE TO RENEW THE ACQUAINTANCE WHEN HE GETS BACK TO HIS ROOM. HURRY UPSTAIRS AND GET READY!
LATER..
COME IN! COME IN!
KNOCK KNOCK
FORGIVE ME FOR WHAT HAPPENED, MR GLENN. JIM WASN'T ANGRY AT YOU.. HE WAS MAD AT ME. I'VE BEEN WAITING FOR YOU TO COME IN SO I COULD GIVE YOU YOUR CIGARETTE CASE. I HAVE IT RIGHT HERE..

RACKET SQUAD IN ACTION

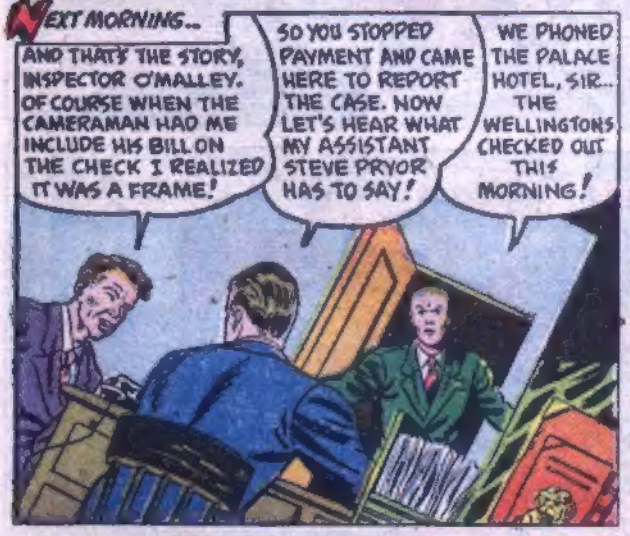
YES, I DID LEAVE RATHER ABRUPTLY. I DIDN'T WANT TO GET INVOLVED IN A FAMILY QUARREL. HERE.. HAVE A CIGARETTE, MRS. WELLINGTON..
THANKS, I COULD USE A DRINK, TOO.
AS I WAS SAYING, I ALWAYS STAY HERE AT THE PALACE, WHEN I'M IN TOWN. THEY ALL KNOW ME..
MR. GLENN! THERE'S SOMEBODY AT THE DOOR!-HIDE ME.. QUICKLY!
IF YOU WON'T ANSWER, WE'LL COME IN!
SO THIS IS IT! I THOUGHT SO! LUCKY I BROUGHT YOU ALONG, TOM. LET'S HAVE A CANDID FLASH! IT WILL COST HIM $500. FOR THE PICTURE!
$500! THIS IS AN OUTRAGE!
I SUPPOSE YOU'VE GOT ME.. I'LL PAY!
AN OUTRAGE IS WHAT I CALL IT, MR. GLENN! YOU'RE WELL KNOWN HERE AT THE HOTEL. YOU'LL BE A LOT BETTER KNOWN.. OR WORSE KNOWN... IF I GO TO COURT OVER THIS!
NO, NO! I'D RATHER SETTLE NOW. HERE'S MY CHECK FOR $500... IF YOU'LL FORGET THE INCIDENT ENTIRELY!
CHECKING OUT, MR. GLENN? ISN'T EVERYTHING SATISFACTORY?
YES, YES. BUT I JUST HAD A WIRE FROM CHICAGO. URGENT BUSINESS. HAVE TO CATCH A SLEEPER.
HACK THAT FARE TO THE DEPOT, JERRY, AND PHONE ME A REPORT.
IT'S JERRY, THE CABBY. GLENN SENT NO WIRES, MADE NO PHONE CALLS. JUST GRABBED THE RATTLER FOR CHI.
GOOD! HE DIDN'T STOP PAYMENT ON THAT CHECK! MAIL HIM A PRINT OF YOUR PICTURE, TOM, AND TELL HIM TO KICK IN $500 FOR THE NEGATIVE!

RACKET SQUAD IN ACTION

ONE WEEK LATER..
GLENN CAME THROUGH, JIM. SHALL I MAIL HIM THE NEGATIVE?
SURE. WE'VE GOT TO ACT LIKE WE WERE ON THE LEVEL. NOW GRAB YOUR CAMERA AND COME UP TO 819. MARCIA IS FRAMING A SAP NAMED MILT FORMAN.
SO THIS IS WHAT COOKS!
LUCKY I BROUGHT MY CAMERA!
WHY.. YOU!
I'LL TAKE THAT CAMERA!
THIS JOKER DOESN'T THINK WE'RE LEVELLING WITH HIM, SWEET! PHONE FOR THE HOUSE DICK!
RIGHT AWAY!
HELLO.. HELLO.. IS THE HOTEL DETECTIVE AROUND?
OKAY, YOU WIN. WITH THREE WITNESSES AGAINST ME, WHAT CHANCE HAVE I GOT?
HANG UP, SWEET. HE'S LISTENING TO REASON.

RACKET SQUAD IN ACTION

JUST WRITE IT OUT FOR $500..AND YOU'RE GETTING OFF EASY..
WAIT NOW, THIS TIME IT'S $650. ...GOTTA BE FOR THE CAMERA YOU BUSTED!
LATER...
ROUGH GOING. BUT WE TOOK HIM OVER!
YEAH? I'M NOT SO SURE WE DID! HE DIDN'T CHECK OUT LIKE THE OTHERS, SO WE'RE GOING TO LEAVE INSTEAD!
$500-$650? SOMETHING VERY PHONEY! I'LL SLEEP ON IT!

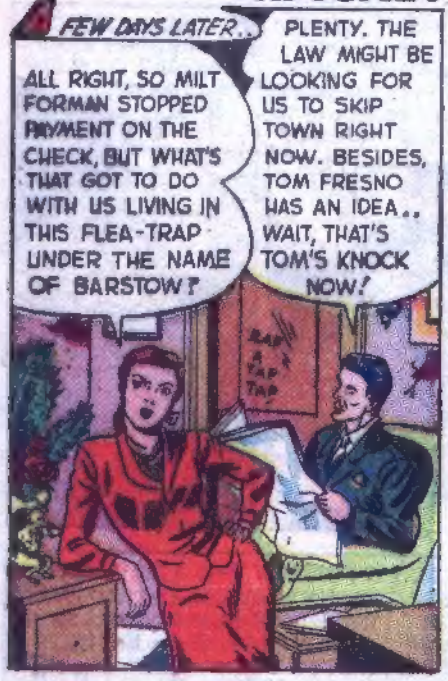

NEXT MORNING...
AND THAT'S THE STORY, INSPECTOR O'MALLEY. OF COURSE WHEN THE CAMERAMAN HAD ME INCLUDE HIS BILL ON THE CHECK I REALIZED IT WAS A FRAME!
SO YOU STOPPED PAYMENT AND CAME HERE TO REPORT THE CASE. NOW LET'S HEAR WHAT MY ASSISTANT STEVE PRYOR HAS TO SAY!
WE PHONED THE PALACE HOTEL, SIR... THE WELLINGTONS CHECKED OUT THIS MORNING!

NO, INSPECTOR. I DON'T SEE ANYBODY IN THIS FILE RESEMBLING THE WELLINGTONS.. IF THAT'S THEIR RIGHT NAME!
IT PROBABLY ISN'T... PEOPLE WHO WORK THE BADGER GAME USUALLY QUIT ONCE THEY'VE BEEN CAUGHT, SO THE RACKET IS FULL OF NEW FACES. HOWEVER, STEVE... WE'LL FIND THEM!
THE DESCRIPTION OF THAT CANDID CAMERA FELLOW MAY HELP!

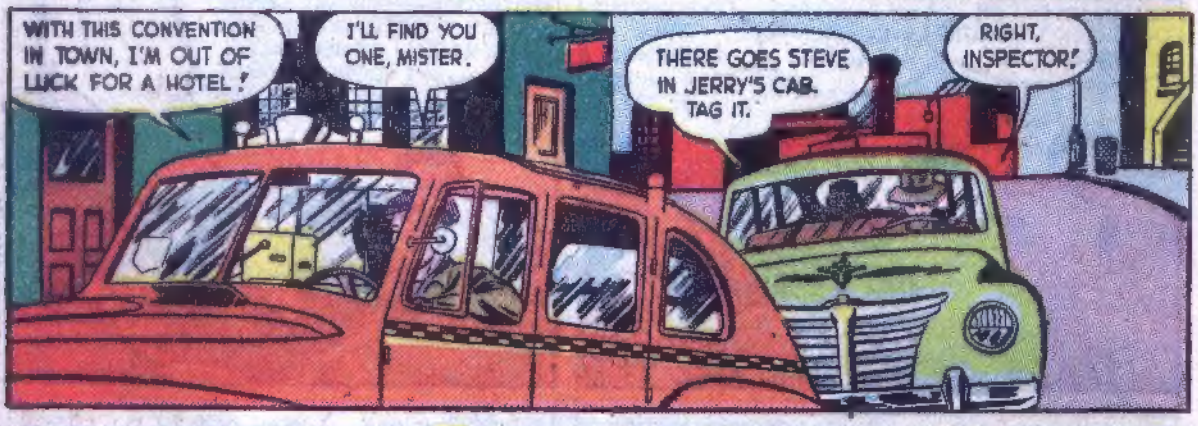
THIS DESCRIBES THE WELLINGTONS ALL RIGHT, BUT THEY DIDN'T LEAVE ANY FOWARDING ADDRESS. IN FACT I DON'T REMEMBER THEM EVER GETTING MAIL!
THIS DESCRIPTION OF THE CAMERAMAN RINGS A BELL! I SAW HIM TALKING TO A CAB DRIVER!

THERE'S ONE GUY WHO MIGHT KNOW THIS PHONEY CAMERAMAN, THAT'S JERRY GRAFF. HE DRIVES AN INDEPENDENT CAR.
YEAH..AND JERRY'S A PHONEY HIMSELF. FUNNY HE HASN'T BEEN AROUND LATELY!
I'LL LOOK HIM UP!
PALACE

RACKET SQUAD IN ACTION


A FEW DAYS LATER..
ALL RIGHT, SO MILT FORMAN STOPPED PAYMENT ON THE CHECK, BUT WHAT'S THAT GOT TO DO WITH US LIVING IN THIS FLEA-TRAP UNDER THE NAME OF BARSTOW?
PLENTY. THE LAW MIGHT BE LOOKING FOR US TO SKIP TOWN RIGHT NOW. BESIDES, TOM FRESNO HAS AN IDEA.. WAIT, THAT'S TOM'S KNOCK NOW!
TAP TAP TAP

GREAT NEWS, FOLKS! WITH A CONVENTION DUE NEXT WEEK, EVERY HOTEL IS FILLING WITH RESPECTABLE CUSTOMERS. INCLUDING THIS JOINT. I'VE GOT JERRY WATCHING FOR A FALL-GUY.
YOU SEE? WE'LL PULL ONE MORE TRIM AND THEN LAM!
NEWS


WITH THIS CONVENTION IN TOWN, I'M OUT OF LUCK FOR A HOTEL!
I'LL FIND YOU ONE, MISTER.
THERE GOES STEVE IN JERRY'S CAB. TAG IT.
RIGHT, INSPECTOR!

THE GUY'S NAME IS PRYOR AND HE'S LOADED WITH DOUGH..
GOOD ENOUGH, JERRY. NOBODY PULLED IN SINCE YOU DID, SO HE LOOKS LIKE A SAFE BET!
WE'LL STAY RIGHT HERE!

RACKET SQUAD IN ACTION

AGAIN MARCIA BAITS HER TRAP...
I'M SO SORRY TO BE LATE, JIM..
WHY.. YOU AREN'T JIM...
IT'S ALL RIGHT, LADY.
MY NAME IS MARCIA BARSTOW AND I'M WAITING FOR MY HUSBAND..
IT'S COMING IN NICELY FROM STEVE'S WALKIE-TALKIE!
BUT JIM, I ONLY HAPPENED TO MEET MR. PRYOR WHILE I WAS WAITING HERE FOR YOU..
SORRY TO HAVE INTRUDED.
I'M PUTTING THE WALKIE-TALKIE IN THE TABLE DRAWER, INSPECTOR. HERE COMES MISS TROUBLE NOW. I THINK SHE'S GOING TO RETURN A FOUNTAIN PEN SHE BORROWED AT THE TABLE...
KNOCK KNOCK
.. AND JIM ACTED SO STUPIDLY, I FORGOT ALL ABOUT THE FOUNTAIN PEN. I WOULD LIKE A CIGARETTE, MR. PRYOR.. AND MAYBE A DRINK, IF YOU HAVE ONE.
I CAN SEND FOR SOME, MRS. BARSTOW..
HERE'S WHERE SHE WENT!
OH, STEVE .. I MEAN MR. PRYOR..
MAYBE WE CAN SETTLE THIS IN A NICE, QUIET WAY.. ON A CASH BASIS, MR. PRYOR.
WHY.. WHY, YES..
LIKE I TOLD YOU, JIM. JERRY SAID HE HAD A ROLL ON HIM!
YOU'RE RIGHT, TOM. IT COMES TO EIGHT HUNDRED BUCKS. WE'LL LET HIM KEEP FIFTY.
THIS SOUNDS LIKE THE BLOW-OFF. MOVE IN MEN. IT'S ROOM 318
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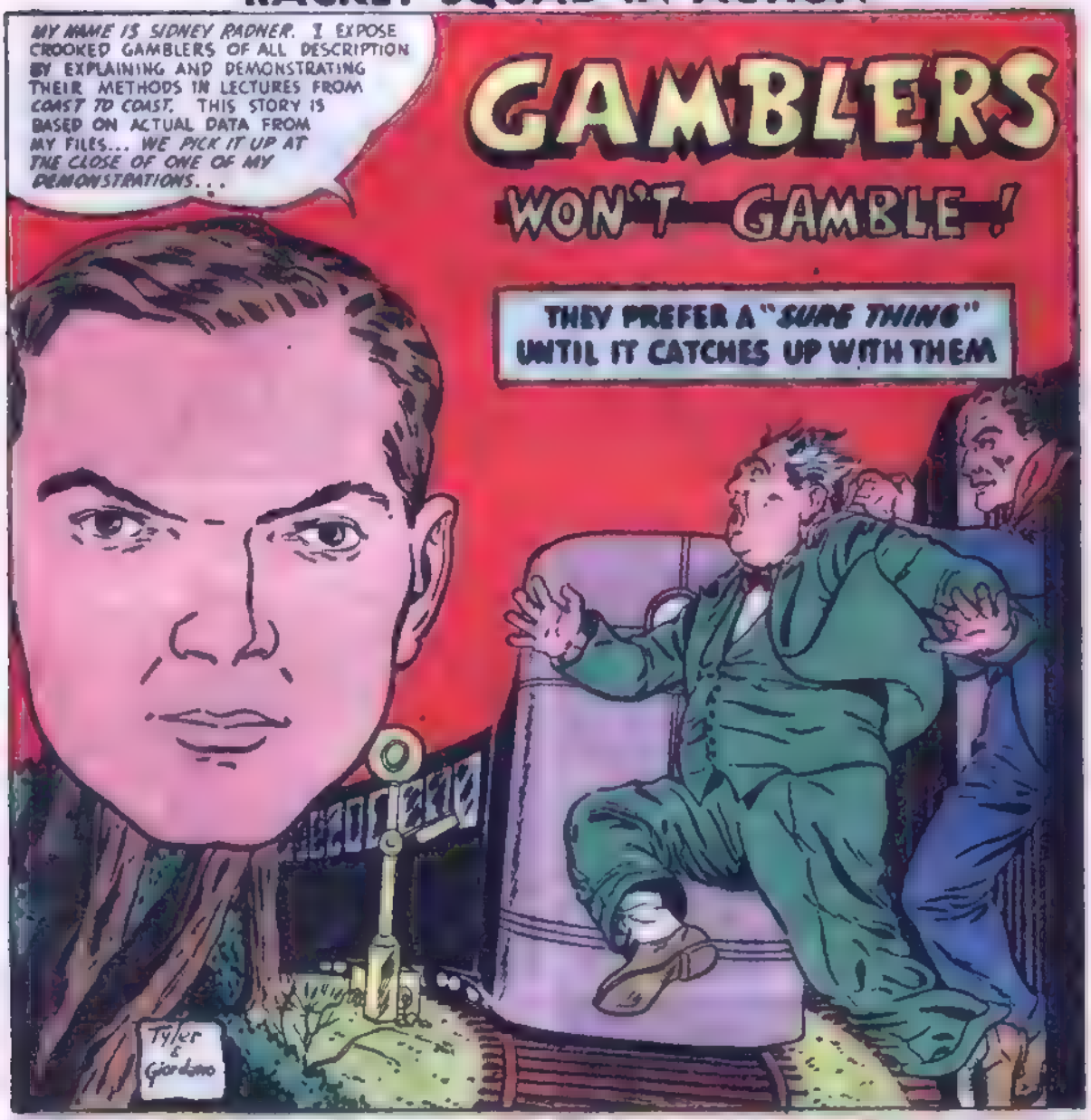
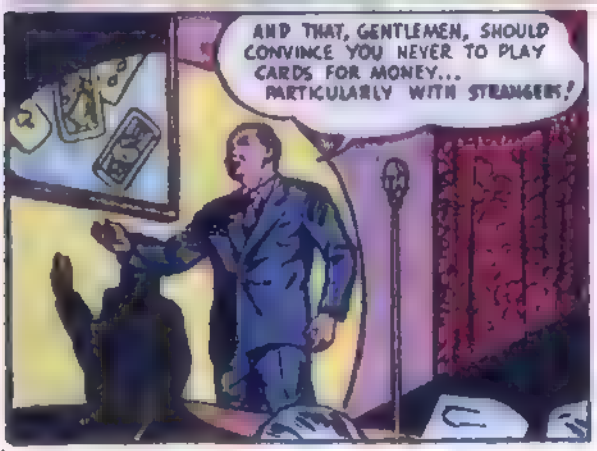
RACKET SQUAD IN ACTION

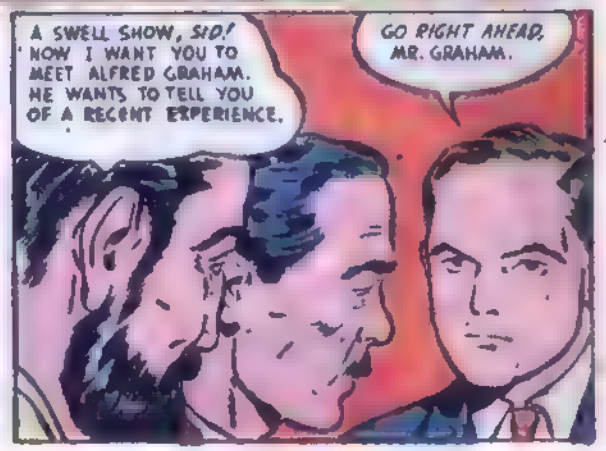
THIS COMPLETES OUR BUSINESS..
NOT YET IT DOESN'T! WHEN I-PAY $750 I WANT SOMETHING FOR IT.. LIKE THIS CAMERA!
SMASH IT CHUM, AND SEE IF I CARE!
SMASH IT? NOT A CHANCE. I'M KEEPING IT, WITH THAT PICTURE YOU TOOK, FOR EVIDENCE.
LOOK, JIM.. A WALKIE-TALKIE!
OH-HO!
GET GOING! DOWN THE FIRE TOWER. I'LL BE WITH YOU!
I JUST SPOTTED SOME HEADQUARTERS GUYS MOVING IN, SO I SWUNG AROUND TO TELL YOU!
YOU SWUNG AROUND JUST IN TIME. LET'S GO!
THERE THEY GO, INSPECTOR!
GET ANOTHER CAR AND FOLLOW, STEVE!
FASTER, JERRY! WE'RE LEAVING THEM...
I CAN'T GO FASTER, JIM! THIS TURN.. I'M NOT GOING TO MAKE IT!
SCREECH
JIM.. DON'T LEAVE ME.. I'M HURT...
THE POLICE WILL TAKE YOU TO THE HOSPITAL, MARCIA. I CAN DO MORE TO HELP YOU IF I'M IN THE CLEAR!

RACKET SQUAD IN ACTION

LATER... THIS IS THE CAB DRIVER WHO TOOK ME TO THE HOTEL..THIS IS THE CAMERAMAN.. AND THIS IS THE GIRL!
WAIT! HERE'S A CALL WE'VE BEEN WAITING FOR...LET'S GO MEN!
MEANWHILE.. THANKS FOR DROPPING ME OFF HERE STRANGER!
A TICKET TO THE CITY... AND WHEN IS THE NEXT TRAIN?
IN THIRTY MINUTES, SIR.
I'M INSPECTOR O'MALLEY. YOU WON'T NEED TO TAKE THIS TRAIN, WELLINGTON. I HAVE A CAR WAITING.
YOU THOUGHT YOU'D GIVEN THE OLD BADGER RACKET A NEW TWIST, BUT INSTEAD, THE LAW DID. WE RECORDED ALL YOUR CONVERSATION WITH STEVE PRYOR FROM HIS WALKIE-TALKIE.
I JUST DROPPED IN TO RETURN YOUR FOUNTAIN PEN, MR. PRYOR..
WE HAVE A PHOTO OF STEVE PRODUCING THE HUSH MONEY AND FINALLY WE HAVE THE MONEY ITSELF, ALL IN BILLS WITH LISTED NUMBERS, FOUND IN YOUR POSSESSION LATER, WELLINGTON!
WE PHONED THOSE NUMBERS TO EVERY RAILROAD STATION, BUS DEPOT AND AIR TERMINAL WITHIN A HUNDRED MILES. YOU WALKED INTO TROUBLE THE MOMENT YOU TRIED TO BUY THAT TICKET, WELLINGTON!
AND YOU'RE WALKING ALONG WITH ME RIGHT NOW. COME ON!


MY NAME IS SIDNEY RADNER. I EXPOSE CROOKED GAMBLERS OF ALL DESCRIPTION BY EXPLAINING AND DEMONSTRATING THEIR METHODS IN LECTURES FROM COAST TO COAST. THIS STORY IS BASED ON ACTUAL DATA FROM MY FILES... WE PICK IT UP AT THE CLOSE OF ONE OF MY DEMONSTRATIONS...
GAMBLERS WON'T GAMBLE!
THEY PREFER A "SURE THING" UNTIL IT CATCHES UP WITH THEM
Tyler & Giordano


AND THAT, GENTLEMEN, SHOULD CONVINCE YOU NEVER TO PLAY CARDS FOR MONEY... PARTICULARLY WITH STRANGERS!


A SWELL SHOW, SID! NOW I WANT YOU TO MEET ALFRED GRAHAM. HE WANTS TO TELL YOU OF A RECENT EXPERIENCE.
GO RIGHT AHEAD, MR. GRAHAM.

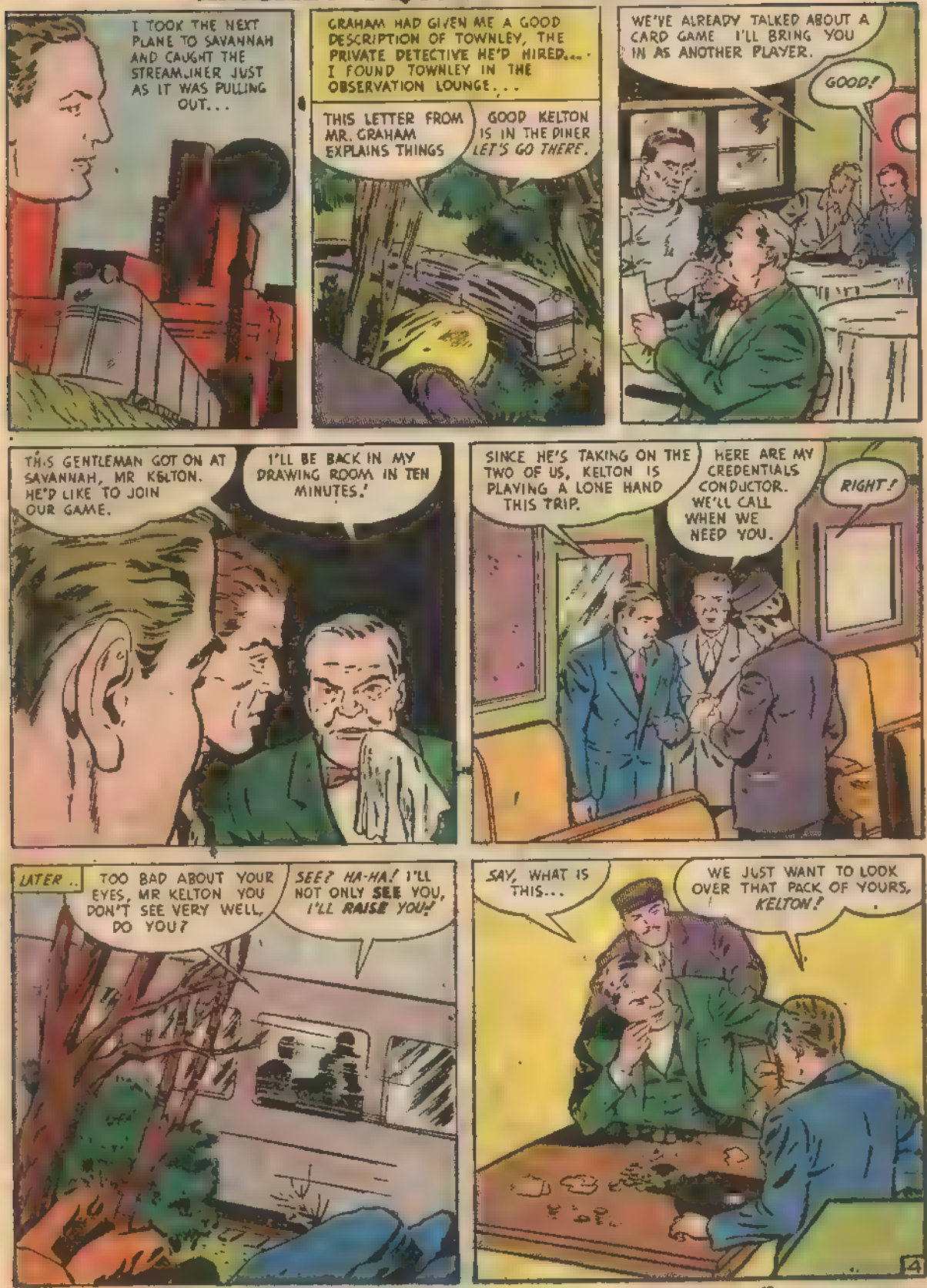
RACKET SQUAD IN ACTION

"IT ALL BEGAN IN THE CLUB CAR WHEN I WAS ON THE WAY TO FLORIDA..
THIS CANASTA IS A DREARY GAME, MISTER. HOW ABOUT JOINING US IN A ROUND OF STUD POKER?
FINE... BUT SUPPOSE WE ADJOURN TO THE PRIVACY OF MY DRAWING ROOM? AND PERHAPS THIS GENTLEMAN WILL JOIN US.
KELTON IS THE NAME JUNIUS KELTON I AM GETTING SO NEAR-SIGHTED I CAN SCARCELY SEE THE CARDS... AND I HAVE TO WEAR TINTED GLASSES BECAUSE OF THE SUN'S GLARE.
FIVE AND TEN CENTS IS OUR LIMIT, GENTLEMEN!
YOU'RE SURE LUCKY, GRAHAM! YOU'RE THE BIG WINNER SO FAR.
LET'S BOOST THE GAME TO TEN-TWENTY, SO WE CAN BREAK EVEN!
ALL RIGHT BY ME.
SEVEN CARD STUD IS FULL OF SURPRISES, MR GRAHAM MY FOUR JACKS BEAT YOUR FULL HOUSE!
WITH THE LIMIT UP TO FIVE BUCKS!
ONE MOMENT THERE, FELLOW! YOU DON'T DEAL ACES FROM THE BOTTOM IN THIS GAME! PAY UP AND GET OUT!
I WAS LOSING MORE THAN I COULD AFFORD...
I NEVER SAW THIS GUY BEFORE...
GET OUT!
2

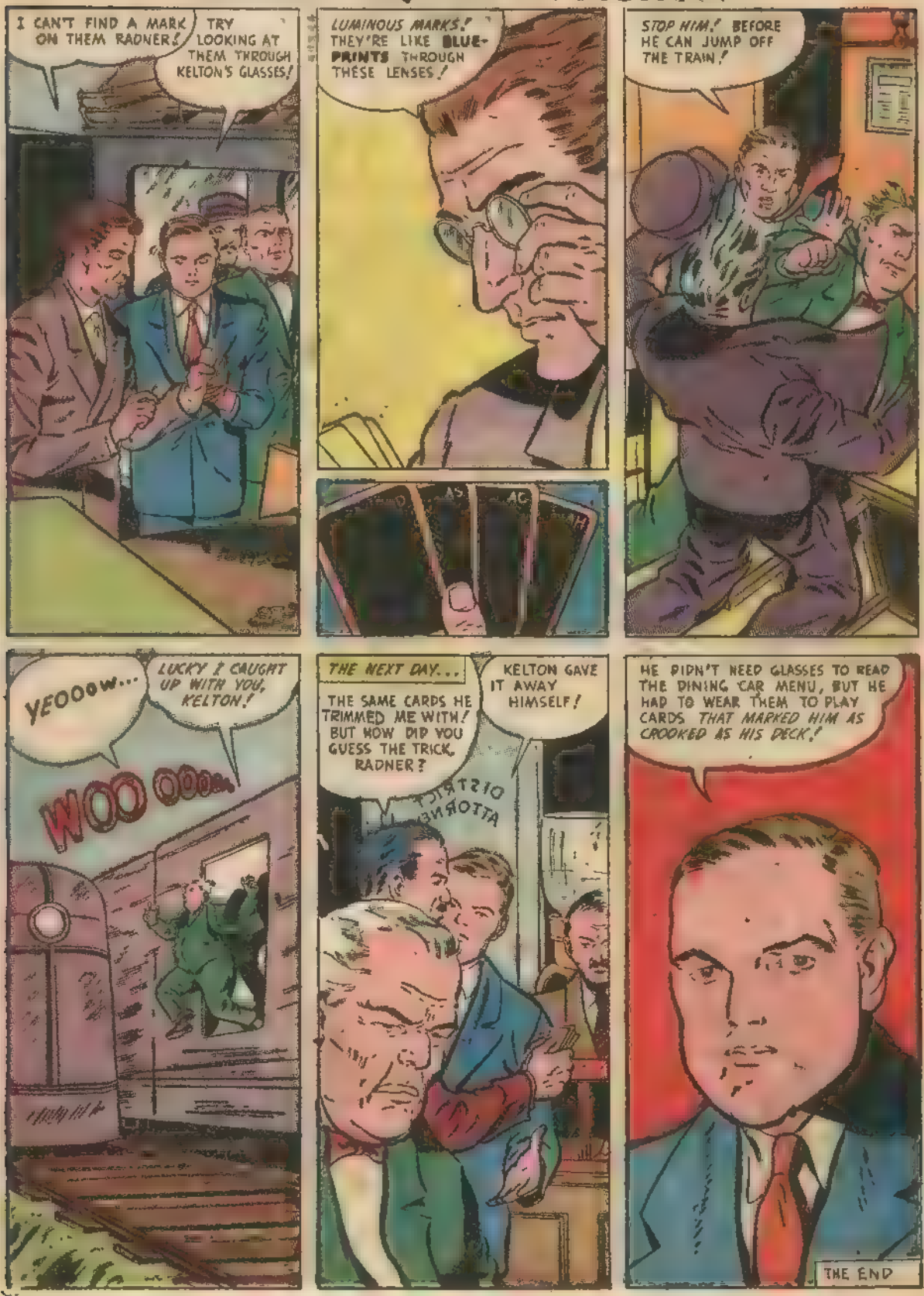
RACKET SQUAD IN ACTION

I'M GLAD YOU'RE THE WINNER, KELTON, BUT YOU'LL HAVE TO TAKE MY CHECK FOR THE $5000. THAT I OWE!
LOOK THROUGH THAT PACK THOSE BOUNDERS BROUGHT HERE, GRAHAM. IF ANY CARDS ARE MARKED, OUR BETS ARE OFF!
NOT A MARKED CARD IN THE DECK, KELTON...
JUST THE SAME GRAHAM, I DON'T LIKE TO TAKE YOUR MONEY. I'M TEARING UP THIS CHECK YOU GAVE ME.
BUT KELTON, YOU WON FAIRLY... I CERTAINLY OWE YOU SOMETHING...
LET'S SPLIT THE DIFFERERENCE, THEN. WRITE ME A CHECK FOR $2500. AND WE'LL CALL IT SQUARE.
KELTON MUST HAVE LEFT THE TRAIN AND HOPPED BACK TO NEW YORK BY PLANE, BECAUSE BY THE TIME I REACHED MIAMI, BOTH CHECKS HAD GONE THROUGH MY BANK! HERE THEY ARE.
THE "TEAR-UP" IS AN OLD GAME, MR. GRAHAM... KELTON SWITCHED IN A DUMMY WHILE YOU WERE EXAMINING THE DECK... NICKING YOU FOR THAT SECOND CHECK WAS AN ADDED TWIST... BUT YOUR ONLY WAY TO NAIL KELTON IS TO CATCH HIM AT THE SAME GAME!
I'VE DONE JUST THAT, RADNER! I HAD HIM SHADOWED BY A PRIVATE DETECTIVE WHO IS RIDING NORTH WITH HIM NOW. I WANT YOU TO FLY DOWN AND MEET THEIR TRAIN!
A GREAT IDEA, MR. GRAHAM.
5

RACKET SQUAD IN ACTION


I TOOK THE NEXT PLANE TO SAVANNAH AND CAUGHT THE STREAMLINER JUST AS IT WAS PULLING OUT...
GRAHAM HAD GIVEN ME A GOOD DESCRIPTION OF TOWNLEY, THE PRIVATE DETECTIVE HE'D HIRED... I FOUND TOWNLEY IN THE OBSERVATION LOUNGE...
THIS LETTER FROM MR. GRAHAM EXPLAINS THINGS
GOOD KELTON IS IN THE DINER LET'S GO THERE.
WE'VE ALREADY TALKED ABOUT A CARD GAME I'LL BRING YOU IN AS ANOTHER PLAYER.
GOOD!
THIS GENTLEMAN GOT ON AT SAVANNAH, MR KELTON. HE'D LIKE TO JOIN OUR GAME.
I'LL BE BACK IN MY DRAWING ROOM IN TEN MINUTES.'
SINCE HE'S TAKING ON THE TWO OF US, KELTON IS PLAYING A LONE HAND THIS TRIP.
HERE ARE MY CREDENTIALS CONDUCTOR. WE'LL CALL WHEN WE NEED YOU.
RIGHT!
LATER..
TOO BAD ABOUT YOUR EYES, MR KELTON YOU DON'T SEE VERY WELL, DO YOU?
SEE? HA-HA! I'LL NOT ONLY SEE YOU, I'LL RAISE YOU!
SAY, WHAT IS THIS...
WE JUST WANT TO LOOK OVER THAT PACK OF YOURS, KELTON!
4

RACKET SQUAD IN ACTION


I CAN'T FIND A MARK ON THEM RADNER!
TRY LOOKING AT THEM THROUGH KELTON'S GLASSES!
LUMINOUS MARKS! THEY'RE LIKE BLUE-PRINTS THROUGH THESE LENSES!
STOP HIM! BEFORE HE CAN JUMP OFF THE TRAIN!
YEOOOW...
LUCKY I CAUGHT UP WITH YOU, KELTON!
WOO OOOO...
THE NEXT DAY...
THE SAME CARDS HE TRIMMED ME WITH! BUT HOW DID YOU GUESS THE TRICK, RADNER?
KELTON GAVE IT AWAY HIMSELF!
HE DIDN'T NEED GLASSES TO READ THE DINING CAR MENU, BUT HE HAD TO WEAR THEM TO PLAY CARDS THAT MARKED HIM AS CROOKED AS HIS DECK!
THE END

COUNT YOUR CHANGE!

The Real Low-down On The Lowest Of Rackets

Every year the American public is furnished with staggering figures compiled by expert statisticians, telling of the enormous losses suffered through gyp schemes, swindles, rackets and their like. Always that same public is warned to be on the lookout for all such frauds. Yet meanwhile, the very people who are most on the alert are being methodically fleeced and consistently trimmed by the sure-fire operators who specialize in the short-change game. This hidden racket, without doubt takes as great an annual toll as all the other combined.

The "ten-fold" is the name given the fanciest of all short-change artifices. As well as fanciest, it is the rarest. The reason: It can only be worked around places where hundred dollar bills are common, such as ritzy night-clubs, big-time gambling joints, or the swankier resort hotels. After establishing confidence by his casual handling of hundred dollar bills, the short changer begins passing ten-spots which he has folded so that the number 100 shows instead.

He creases back the left edge of the bill, alongside the zero of the "10" in the upper corner. He carries that crease over to right, covering the figure one of the "10" in the upper right. In this case, ten plus zero equals one hundred, to all appearances. The swindler then folds the bulk of the bill underneath, bending the lower portion up and under. Pressing his thumb just below the top figures, he holds the bill folded so that it appears to be a hundred-spot.

If he habitually handles bills in this fashion, the swindler can frequently fool a night club cashier when paying a large tab, or can get by with it at a gambling joint when buying chips. It's all done with a casual flash that imprints "100" on the mind of the person receiving the bill. Nervy though it is, the ruse has a strong element of safety. Only after unfolding the bill will the cashier discover it to be a ten and then the "evidence" in the form of the tricky fold, is no longer in existence!

A different sort of "fold" is used in everyday life. Here, the short changer is usually a man behind a counter or concession booth. When he gives nine dollars change for a ten-spot, to complete a one dollar sale, he counts off nine dollars, all in ones. But the customer gets only seven bills, not nine.

Two of the bills are folded in half and interspersed among the others. They are placed so that their loose ends all point the same way. The short changer keeps his thumb across the center of the little pile, thus holding the folded bills in place. This enables him to count nine bills instead of seven, by lifting the bills at the end where two of them are doubled. Thus two of the bills are counted twice, although all seems perfectly fair.

Most operators have a neat trick of inserting their fingers among the folds and straightening the doubled bills while passing the batch to the customer. The victim spends his money, wondering how a couple of extra bucks went so fast, never realizing that he was gypped of them to begin with! This is one way of having your money doubled, only to find that you have less!

Naturally, the trick can be worked both ways. Often, short change artists use the "fold" when making purchases at stores and some even add a twist of "stealing" one bill from a normal stack, while spreading it. But a careful clerk can put the skids under such chicanery. If he counts the money before putting it in the cash register, the customer will have to apologize for a mistake and make up the difference.

This so hurts the pride of some gyp artists, that they resort to the "split bill" system, which has its dangers, as it involves tampering with U.S. currency, but is seldom spotted. Even then, it allows the hustler a chance to pose as an innocent party who had some funny money passed on him without his knowledge.

The story goes that the "split bill" came into vogue when some sharper soaked a Bank of England note in water and found that it came apart as two bills, each with printing showing on both sides. This was corrected so that British bills would be blank on one side if "split" in such fashion and the same is true of U.S. money.

So for a long while it seemed ridiculous to "split" bills and hope to pass them in that form. Then the gyps found a way to work it.

Their system was to split bills of two denominations, like a batch of ones and another group of fives. They then glued the fives and ones back to back. The result was a bill that showed a five on one side and a one on the other.

A short changer, armed with such bills, goes into a store and makes a purchase totalling eighteen dollars. He brings out three five dollar bills and three singles, counting them quite carefully, but letting them get mixed say, first a five, then two ones, pair of fives and finally an odd single. He hands these to the clerk who recounts them, maybe separating them at the same time, but finding nothing wrong with the amount.

One of the "fives" however, is a double-facer, showing a five on one side, a one on the other. Such a bill is worth only three dollars, since a pair of them are formed from a five and a one. Thus the clerk has collected fifteen instead of eighteen dollars. If he happens to turn over the bills while putting them in the cash register, they still appear as genuine currency and he is not likely to note the difference in the amount.

The short changer usually does something to divert the victim's attention at any crucial stage of the deal. As with all trickery it's a case of getting people to look close when there is nothing phoney to be observed; then coaxing them into a careless mood when the pinch arrives.

Around carnivals or amusement parks, the "take it or leave it" system is in vogue, when the counter man wants to hang a gyp on his customers, as its name implies, the customer gets a chance to "take it" if he wishes. The short changer pushes some coins forward, after giving them a very fair and accurate count. He does this near a large pile of change that is lying loose on the counter. As he pushes the money, he deftly separates it into two groups, one going to the ticket buyer, the rest remaining close to the big pile.

The victim takes the group nearest him, not realizing the rest of the change is his also. Should he count it and return to "beef" over it, the short changer gestures to a few odd coins and snaps: "That must be yours. Why didn't you take it?"

This system is a favorite with ticket sellers who have a window booth, particularly the sort with a metal cross-bar or a wicket. They can pick just the right angle to place the extra coins to a spot where the customer does not see them when he gathers up his change. If he comes back, he wonders why he didn't see it all along and never thinks to blame the ticket seller.

If you ask the average person to give you change for a five dollar bill, he will invariably hand you four ones, then count out a dollar's worth of change. In ticket booths, the opposite procedure is usual. The seller counts out the silver, pushes it to the customer, and brings up the bills from beneath the counter. Ticket-sellers seldom are in a hurry, but purchasers often rush away. Naturally, the seller can't climb through the window and run after them. Maybe he doesn't intend to short-change them and as a matter of fact, he never would — if he paid out the bills first and the small change last.

However, that form of the "take it or leave it" allows no chance of a protest by the customer. It is surpassed only by the system used at shooting galleries, or other counters where the customer is busy with some sort of game while his money is being changed. The operator simply puts the coins on the counter and forgets them, hoping the victim will do likewise. Such counters are usually decorated with nice aluminum paint which happens, purely by coincidence, to match coins made of silver and nickel. Since the paint looks so nice, the proprietor always brushes or wipes the counter after the customers walk away. It is really, surprising how often he comes across coins there!

It is the ease with which the short changer can be worked that has built it into America's biggest swindle; that, plus the factor stated earlier: Volume of business. After all, everybody changes money dozens of times a day, so the opportunities for such gyps are many.

Sales of stocks and oil-wells, payments on insurance claims, even transactions involving bank checks, are infinitesimal, when compared with the handling of actual currency. What's more, people are often on guard when they buy or sell; but they pay little attention to the matter of making change.

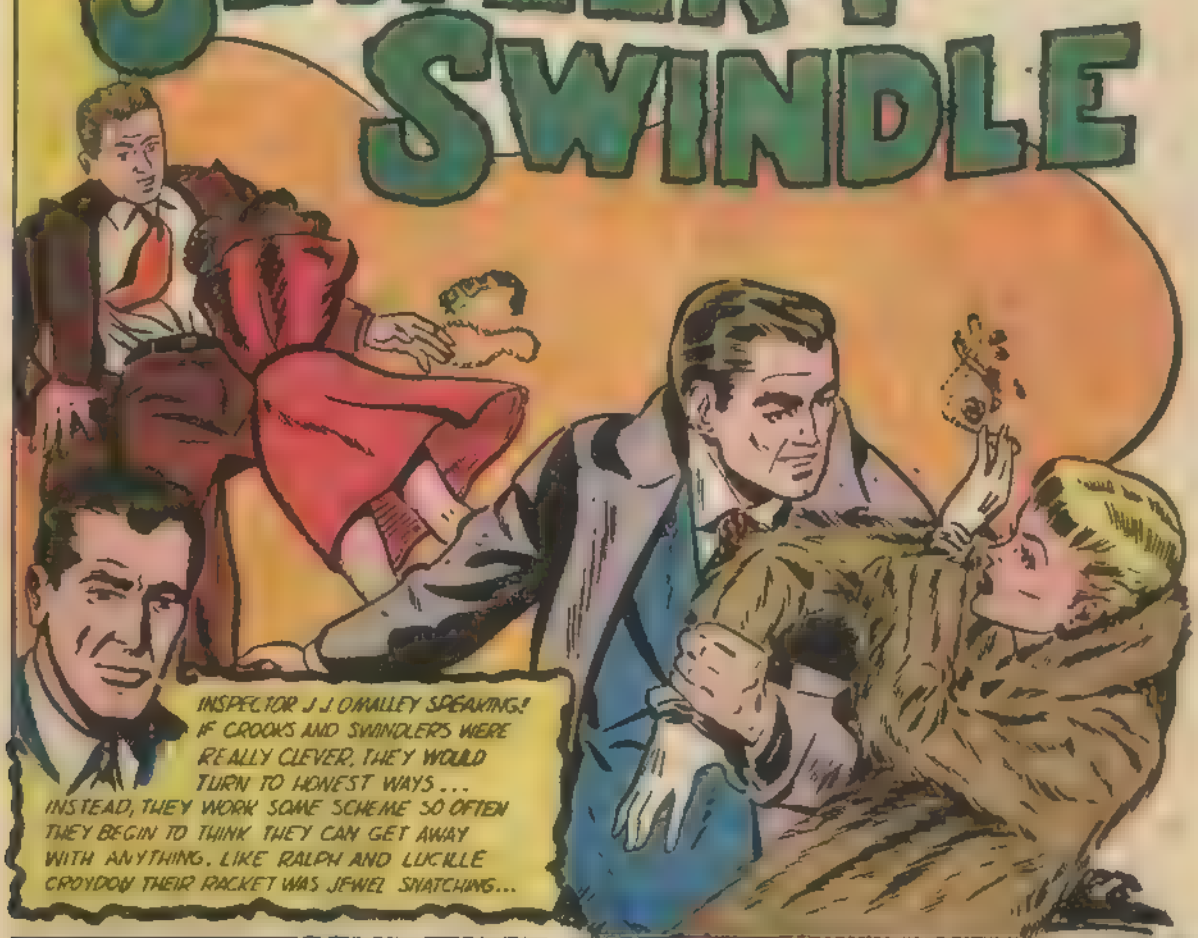
Though it is only petty graft where the individual is concerned, short changing is being worked by so many small-fry gyp artists that its total assumes gigantic proportions.

By watching out for short-changers, you can save your money — if you count it yourself! Don't let them do that for you. It's their own particular specialty.

Above all, remember that the real experts in this type of swindle have pet tricks of their own and switch methods before the customer can catch up with them.

—THE END—

THE JEWELRY SWINDLE

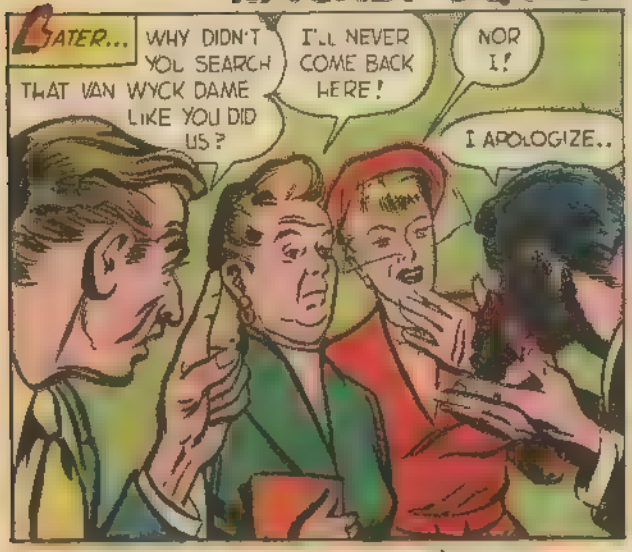

INSPECTOR J. J. O'MALLEY SPEAKING! IF CROOKS AND SWINDLERS WERE REALLY CLEVER, THEY WOULD TURN TO HONEST WAYS... INSTEAD, THEY WORK SOME SCHEME SO OFTEN THEY BEGIN TO THINK THEY CAN GET AWAY WITH ANYTHING. LIKE RALPH AND LUCILLE CROYDON! THEIR RACKET WAS JEWEL SNATCHING...

I WANT A NEW BAND FOR THIS WATCH...
SORRY, WE'RE BUSY... AND THE REPAIR DEPARTMENT IS OVER THERE!
NOW WE HAVE SOME OTHER FINE BROOCHES, MRS VAN WYCK...

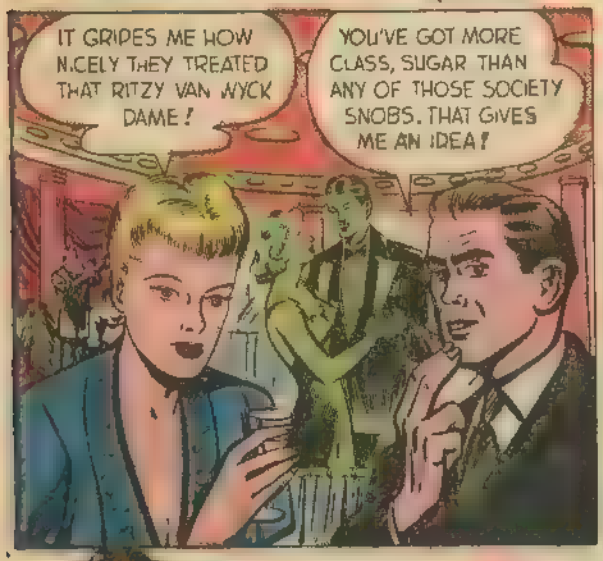
RACKET SQUAD IN ACTION

OH, I SEE!
IT WILL TAKE A FEW DAYS TO REPLACE THIS BAND...
I'LL COME BACK MEANWHILE, I CAN WEAR THE OLD ONE.
YOU NEED PENCILS IN YOUR BUSINESS, MISTER... HOW ABOUT BUYING A FEW!
OUTSIDE, BEGGER!
WHY, HOW OUTRAGEOUS..
HERE'S A WHOLE DOLLAR, YOU POOR MAN, AND YOU CAN KEEP THE PENCILS!
GET OUT!
I NEVER SAW ANYTHING SO COLD HEARTED. I'M GOING TO TELL THE MANAGER!
AHHH... YOU!
ARE YOU THE MANAGER?
YES, I'LL BE WITH YOU IN A MOMENT. WHAT IS IT EDGAR?
WHY, WE'VE LOST... I MEAN I'VE MISLAID SOME DIAMOND BRACELETS..
I HADN'T EVEN LOOKED AT THE MISSING BRACELETS!
I KNOW! WHY WE WOULDN'T [redacted] ACCUSING YOU, MRS VAN WYCK..
...AND DON'T START ACCUSING ME, EITHER! HERE.. LOOK THROUGH MY BAG! SEARCH ME!
2

RACKET SQUAD IN ACTION

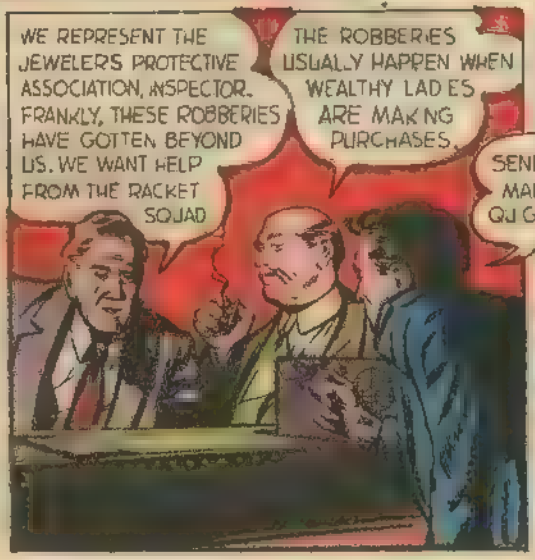


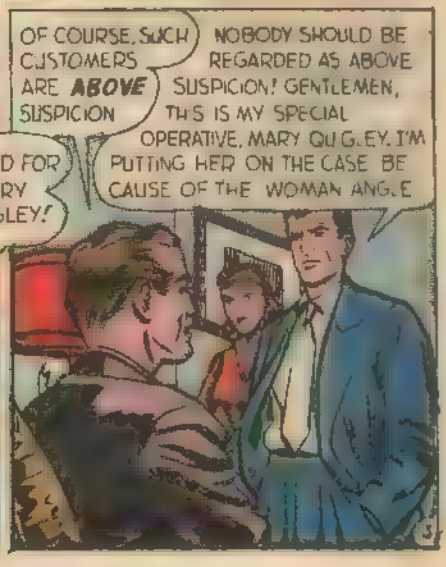
HI, LUCILLE. HERE'S THE LOOT AND IT'S WORTH PLENTY. GET DRESSED AND WE'LL CELEBRATE. BUT WHAT KEPT YOU SO LONG?
THE GOING OVER THEY GAVE ME. WITH SO MANY ROBBERIES LATELY, JEWLERS ARE GETTING DESPERATE.


IT GRIPES ME HOW NICELY THEY TREATED THAT RITZY VAN WYCK DAME!
YOU'VE GOT MORE CLASS, SUGAR THAN ANY OF THOSE SOCIETY SNOBS. THAT GIVES ME AN IDEA!

ALL MINK AND A YARD WIDE! BUT RALPH, THIS MUST HAVE COST HALF THE PROFITS FROM OUR LAST JOB!
YES, AND IT WILL DOUBLE THE TAKE FROM NOW ON. IN THAT OUTFIT, YOU'LL LOOK LIKE YOU BELONG IN THE SOCIAL REGISTER LIKE MRS VAN WYCK!

FROM THEN ON, THE RACKET REALLY WENT INTO HIGH GEAR... THE TOTAL FROM THE BAFFLING GEM THEFTS CLIMBED PAST THE $100,000 MARK... AND THE FACTS WERE MEAGER INDEED!!


WE REPRESENT THE JEWELERS PROTECTIVE ASSOCIATION, INSPECTOR. FRANKLY, THESE ROBBERIES HAVE GOTTEN BEYOND US. WE WANT HELP FROM THE RACKET SQUAD
THE ROBBERIES USUALLY HAPPEN WHEN WEALTHY LADIES ARE MAKING PURCHASES.
SEND FOR MARY QUIGLEY!


OF COURSE. SUCH CUSTOMERS ARE ABOVE SUSPICION
NOBODY SHOULD BE REGARDED AS ABOVE SUSPICION! GENTLEMEN, THIS IS MY SPECIAL OPERATIVE, MARY QUIGLEY. I'M PUTTING HER ON THE CASE BECAUSE OF THE WOMAN ANGLE

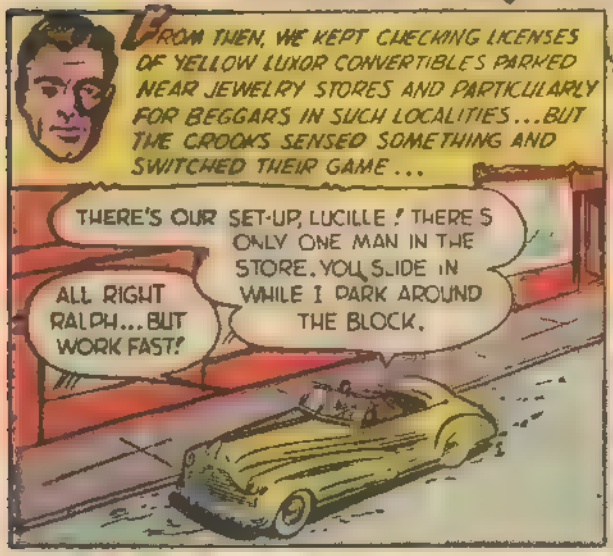
RACKET SQUAD IN ACTION

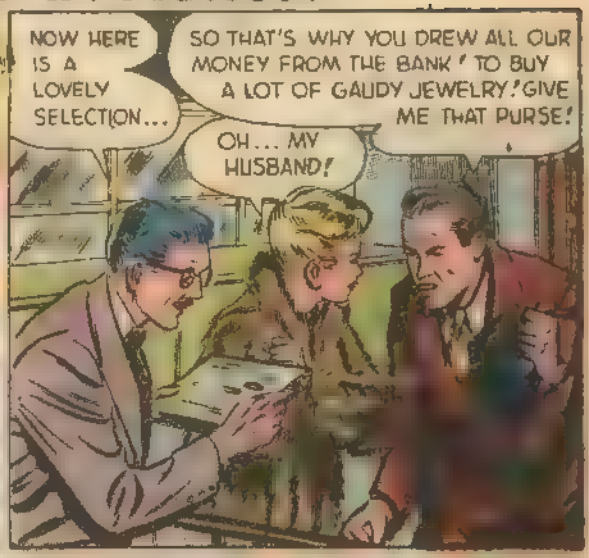
THAT SAME DAY...
TODAY, YOU'RE TO BE MRS. DEWITT TORRINGTON... MY DEAR MRS. TORRINGTON, ARE YOU ON YOUR WAY TO ARMITAGE'S?
INDEED, I AM! I NEED NEW TRINKETS SO SO BADLY FOR THE SEASON IN MIAMI... GET INTO YOUR BEGGAR'S OUTFIT. I'LL BE THERE IN HALF AN HOUR.
BUT WE NEVER ALLOW BEGGARS IN HERE...
MY WORD! YOUR HEARTS ARE HARDAH AND COLDAH THAN YOUR DIAMONDS. HERE, MY MAN, TAKE THIS TWENTY DOLLAHS!
YOU FOOL, YOU LET THAT BEGGAR IN HERE! HE PLAYED ON THE SYMPATHY OF MRS. DEWITT TORRINGTON AND SHE ALMOST WALKED OUT!
YOU MEAN THAT BUM SLIPPED BY ME TWICE? WHY, I OUGHT TO BREAK HIS NECK...
HEY, YOU, FELLOW! I HAVE A SCORE TO SETTLE, YOU KNOW!
YEAH? YOU'D BETTER START COUNTING, THEN...
MY WORD, AM I SEEING RIGHTLY?

RACKET SQUAD IN ACTION

WHAT A HAUL! BUT THAT HASSLE WITH THE DOORMAN WAS A CLOSE ONE!
IT'S LIKELY TO MEAN TROUBLE FOR LUCILLE, SO I'D BETTER SWITCH CLOTHES FAST!
PARKING 75¢
PAGING MR. RODNEY... MR. CECILE RODNEY..
JUST IN TIME, AT THAT!
WE'RE NOT ACCUSING YOU, MRS. TORRINGTON, BUT SOME OF OUR FINEST GEMS ARE GONE, AND AFTER ALL, YOU ARE A NEW CUSTOMER...
I'M TELLING YOU AGAIN, MR. ARMITAGE, YOU MUST SPEAK TO MY ATTORNEY, CECILE RODNEY AT THE PARK PLAZA...
THEY'RE GETTING HIM NOW!
NATURALLY, MR. RODNEY, WE DON'T WANT A DAMAGE SUIT... CERTAINLY, WE'LL RELEASE MRS. TORRINGTON... PROVIDED THAT WE HAVE YOUR ASSURANCE THAT SHE WILL APPEAR IN COURT IF REQUIRED...
TELL MR. ARMITAGE I'LL SEE HIM LATAH.
WHY, OF COURSE!
SO THE SCENE WAS "ALL CLEAR" WHEN I ARRIVED... THE CUSTOMERS ALL HAD BEEN SEARCHED AND WERE GONE... JUST LIKE THE DIAMONDS!
WE PHONED MRS. TORRINGTON'S HOME LATER. THEY SAID SHE'D GONE TO FLORIDA. MR. RODNEY ISN'T LISTED IN THE PHONE BOOK...
THEY REALLY TOOK YOU, DIDN'T THEY! I'LL PHONE INSPECTOR O'MALLEY!
AND THERE'S MORE THAN MEETS THE EYE, INSPECTOR, EXCEPT WHAT MET THE DOORMAN'S EYE!
I'LL QUIZ HIM, MARY. YOU STAY UNDER COVER.
AND YOU SAW THE BEGGAR GET INTO A CAR? DID YOU GET THE LICENSE NUMBER?
NO. BUT IT WAS A LAST YEAR'S LUXOR EIGHT. I REMEMBER THE COLOR.. A YELLOW CONVERTIBLE!

RACKET SQUAD IN ACTION


FROM THEN, WE KEPT CHECKING LICENSES OF YELLOW LUXOR CONVERTIBLES PARKED NEAR JEWELRY STORES AND PARTICULARLY FOR BEGGARS IN SUCH LOCALITIES...BUT THE CROOKS SENSED SOMETHING AND SWITCHED THEIR GAME...
THERE'S OUR SET-UP, LUCILLE! THERE'S ONLY ONE MAN IN THE STORE. YOU SLIDE IN WHILE I PARK AROUND THE BLOCK.
ALL RIGHT RALPH...BUT WORK FAST!


NOW HERE IS A LOVELY SELECTION...
SO THAT'S WHY YOU DREW ALL OUR MONEY FROM THE BANK! TO BUY A LOT OF GAUDY JEWELRY! GIVE ME THAT PURSE!
OH... MY HUSBAND!

RACKET SQUAD IN ACTION

AND SHE WAS WEARING A MINK COAT...

SOUNDS LIKE THE GIRL. HERE'S THE LICENSE OF A LUXOR EIGHT THAT WAS PARKED IN THAT AREA. RALPH CROYDEN, AVENUE APARTMENTS. TAKE IT, MARY.

THE NEXT DAY!

A LOVELY ONE-ROOM APARTMENT! A BIT HIGH, BUT I'LL TAKE IT!

I WAS ON THE JOB A WEEK, PLAYING CAT AND-MOUSE... OR **MICE**, SINCE THERE WERE TWO OF THE RATS! THEY WERE SPENDERS, THAT I COULD TELL, SO IT WAS A CINCH THEY WOULD GO ANOTHER ROBBERY WHEN THE PINCH CAME...

THIS GIRL WHO JUST MOVED IN ACROSS THE HALL ACTS AS THOUGH SHE'S DODGING SOMEBODY. MAYBE WE COULD USE HER...

YOU'RE GIVING ME AN IDEA. GET CHUMMY WITH HER. MEANWHILE QUIT SMOKING CIGARETTES AND START CHEWING GUM!

A MONTH'S RENT IS DUE AND I MEAN LAST MONTH'S. WE'LL HAVE TO HOCK THAT MINK OF YOURS UNLESS WE PULL ANOTHER JOB... AND QUICK.

I'M SCARED OF THAT ACT WE STAGED AT MORTON'S RALPH. HE MIGHT HAVE DOUBLED BACK AND CAUGHT ME COLD-HANDED!

WHY, MARY DEAR! CAN'T I HELP YOU UP WITH SOME PACKAGES?

YOU SURE CAN HERE'S MY APARTMENT KEY. TAKE ALL OF THEM UP WHILE I RUN BACK TO THE CORNER AND GET THE REST!

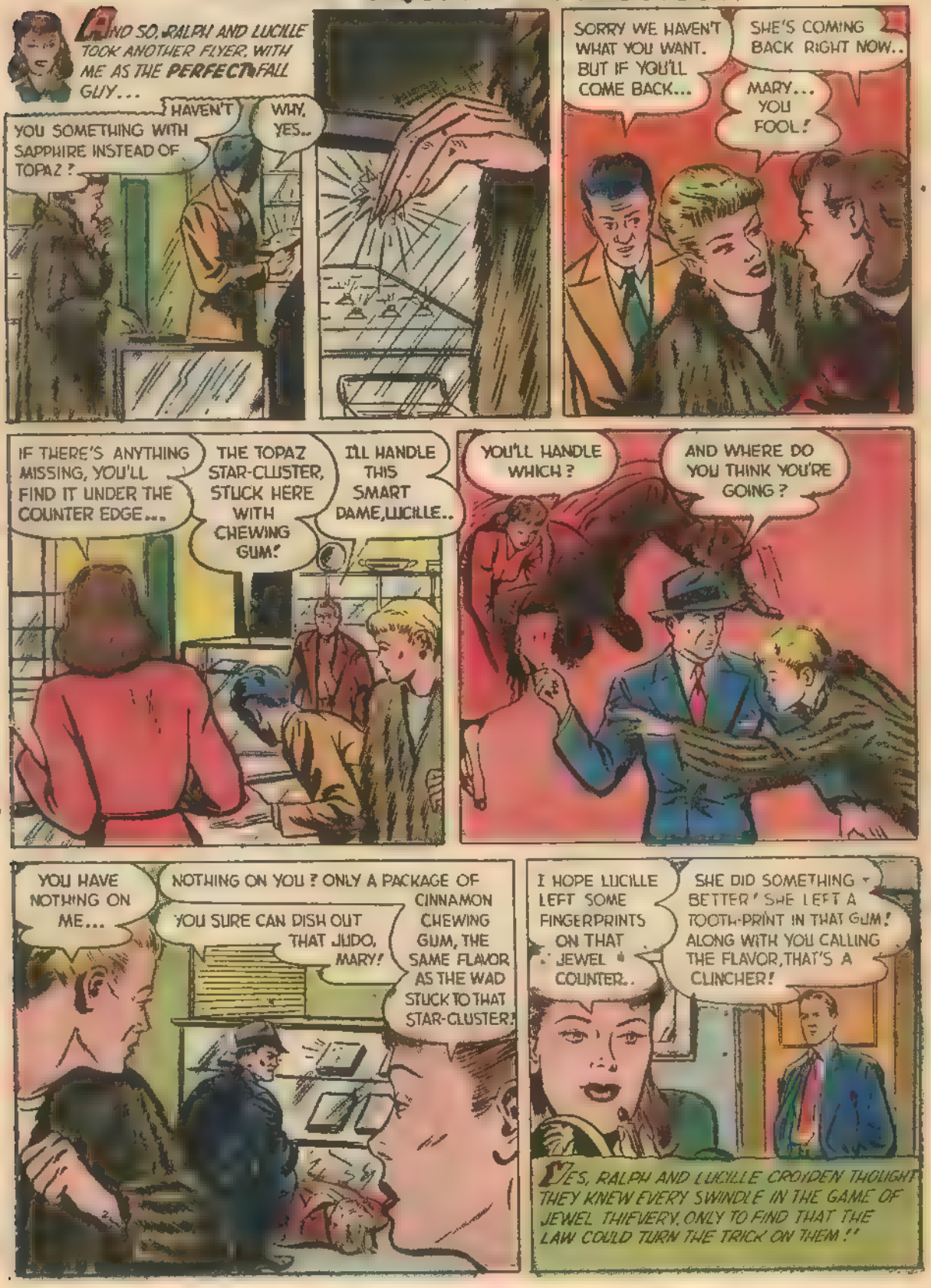
SHE'S UP IN MY APARTMENT NOW, INSPECTOR I'M SURE SHE'LL FIND THOSE PHONEY PAROLE PAPERS WITH MY NAME.

YOU'LL **KNOW** IF SHE OFFERS YOU A DEAL. PLAY RIGHT ALONG!

IT'S **SO** EASY MARY AFTER I LEAVE THE JEWELRY STORE, YOU COME IN AND SLIDE YOUR HAND ALONG BENEATH THE COUNTER.. HAVE SOME GUM? IT'S CINNAMON

NO THANKS. I MEAN NO GUM, BUT I'LL TAKE THE DEAL!

RACKET SQUAD IN ACTION


AND SO, RALPH AND LUCILLE TOOK ANOTHER FLYER, WITH ME AS THE PERFECT FALL GUY...
HAVEN'T YOU SOMETHING WITH SAPPHIRE INSTEAD OF TOPAZ?
WHY, YES..
SORRY WE HAVEN'T WHAT YOU WANT. BUT IF YOU'LL COME BACK...
SHE'S COMING BACK RIGHT NOW..
MARY... YOU FOOL!
IF THERE'S ANYTHING MISSING, YOU'LL FIND IT UNDER THE COUNTER EDGE...
THE TOPAZ STAR-CLUSTER, STUCK HERE WITH CHEWING GUM!
I'LL HANDLE THIS SMART DAME, LUCILLE..
YOU'LL HANDLE WHICH?
AND WHERE DO YOU THINK YOU'RE GOING?
YOU HAVE NOTHING ON ME...
NOTHING ON YOU? ONLY A PACKAGE OF CINNAMON CHEWING GUM, THE SAME FLAVOR AS THE WAD STUCK TO THAT STAR-CLUSTER!
YOU SURE CAN DISH OUT THAT JUDO, MARY!
I HOPE LUCILLE LEFT SOME FINGERPRINTS ON THAT JEWEL COUNTER..
SHE DID SOMETHING BETTER! SHE LEFT A TOOTH-PRINT IN THAT GUM! ALONG WITH YOU CALLING THE FLAVOR, THAT'S A CLINCHER!
YES, RALPH AND LUCILLE CROYDEN THOUGHT THEY KNEW EVERY SWINDLE IN THE GAME OF JEWEL THIEVERY, ONLY TO FIND THAT THE LAW COULD TURN THE TRICK ON THEM!!

THE GUATEMALA SWEEPSTAKES

EVERY CROOK LIKES A SURE THING. THAT WAS THE WAY WITH THE CROWD THAT COOKED UP THE GUATEMALA SWEEPSTAKES. THEY COULDN'T LOSE BECAUSE IT DIDN'T EXIST... THE ONLY TROUBLE WITH THE SWINDLE WAS THE SUCKERS WERE CROOKS TOO.... FOR INSTANCE, MARTY BLAKE—

BOY, OH, BOY!

WHAT IS IT, MARTY, A LETTER FROM ONE OF THOSE *OTHER DAMES* YOU SAY YOU NEVER RAN AROUND WITH?

WINNIE WAIT!

WHY, IT'S ONLY A BOOK OF SWEEPSTAKE TICKETS! WHAT'S THAT TO GET EXCITED ABOUT? EVERYBODY PEDDLES THESE!

RACKET SQUAD IN ACTION

EVERYBODY PEDDLES IRISH SWEEPSTAKE TICKETS, WINNIE, BUT THIS IS A NEW ONE.. THE GUATEMALA SWEEPSTAKES. AND I HAVE AN EXCLUSIVE IN THIS TOWN!
A HUNDRED TICKETS AT $250 EACH AND I KEEP A BUCK APIECE AS MY COMMISSION, IF I BUY RIGHT NOW!
SO THERE GOES $150 TO THE GUATEMALA TURF ASSOCIATION... WHY SO FAST?
SO I'LL GET ANOTHER BOOK WHILE I'M SELLING THIS BATCH... AND KEEP MY EXCLUSIVE. SEE SWEET?
I'LL TAKE ONE, MARTY. WHAT'S THE DIFFERENCE WHETHER IT'S BEING RUN IN IRELAND OR GUATEMALA? THE PAY-OFF COUNTS.
GIMME A COUPLE, MARTY!
NONE FOR ME, MARTY!
I'LL TAKE ANOTHER, MARTY!
SORRY THAT'S THE LAST ONE..
NOT QUITE, HERE'S ANOTHER BATCH FROM GUATEMALA!
SEE, SWEET? SOLD A COUPLE FROM THE NEW BOOK ALREADY... ARE YOU CONVINCED?
I'M WILLING TO BE, PROVIDED YOUR CUSTOMERS REMAIN THAT WAY!
WHAT DO YOU MEAN?
JUST THIS THEY'VE TALKED ABOUT THE GUATEMALA SWEEPSTAKES THAT PEOPLE ARE BEGINNING TO ASK WHAT THEY KNOW ABOUT IT. AND THEY DON'T KNOW MUCH. IN FACT THEY KNOW NOTHING!
DON'T LET THAT BOTHER YOU. READ THIS LETTER FROM GUATEMALA WHY THE TURF ASSOCIATION IS SENDING THE DISTRICT MANAGER TO SEE ME IN PERSON!
THAT BEGINS TO MAKE SENSE LET'S GO DOWN TO THE LOBBY!
2

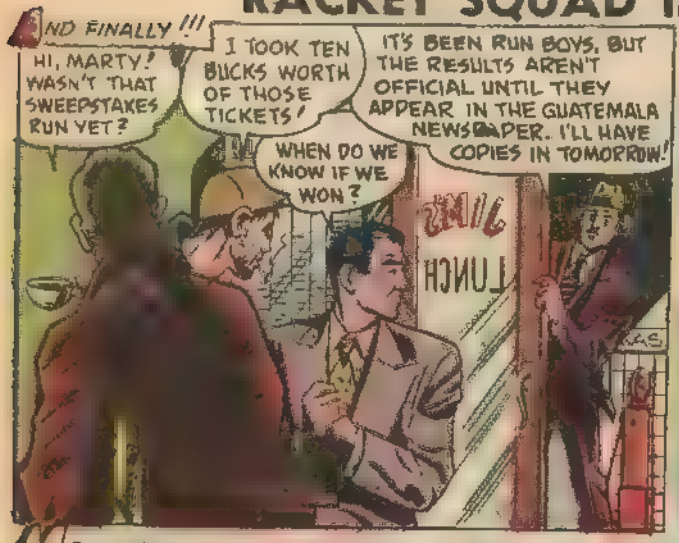
RACKET SQUAD IN ACTION

HAVANA HARRY! BOY, OH BOY, I HAVEN'T SEEN YOU FOR YEARS MEET THE GIRL FRIEND, WINNIE NORTON
MARTY BLAKE! WHAT ARE YOU DOING IN THIS BURG? YOU ALWAYS HOLED IN DOWN AROUND SARASOTA DURING THE OFF SEASON!
LISTEN . IT WOULDN'T HAPPEN, MARTY, THAT YOUR FULL NAME IS JUNIUS M BLAKE?
IT'S JUNIUS MARTIN BLAKE AND I PREFER THE MARTY PART. SAY.. WHAT'S UP?
OH-HO I THINK I KNOW LET'S GET SOMEWHERE PRIVATE!
THERE ISN'T ANY GUATEMALA SWEEPSTAKES IT'S A DODGE COOKED UP BY SOME GUYS WHO ARE DOWN THERE DODGING EXTRADITION! THE TICKETS ARE PRINTED HERE, AND SO ARE ..
SOON AFTER.
I WOULDN'T HAVE THOUGHT IT, MARTY, AN OLD CARNEY LIKE YOU FALLING FOR A SUCKER GAME..
BUT HARRY! YOU'VE GOT CREDENTIALS! AND THESE NEWSPAPERS FROM GUATEMALA TELL ALL ABOUT THE SWEEPSTAKES..
PIPE DOWN, MARTY AND LISTEN!
.. THE SPANISH NEWSPAPERS! THEY PAID ME TO PULL THE REPRESENTATIVE GAG, BECAUSE I SPEAK SPANISH!
I STILL CAN'T BELIEVE IT!
OF COURSE IT'S CONVINCING STUFF.. LIKE THIS NEWSPAPER WITH ALL THE LAST SWEEPSTAKE WINNERS. THERE WILL BE ANOTHER PRINTED TO COVER THE PRESENT STAKES TOO..
..BUT OF COURSE NONE OF THE NUMBERS YOU'VE BEEN PEDDLING WILL BE LISTED IN IT. THAT'S THE DODGE, SEE?
I GOT AN IDEA! TAKE ME DOWN TO THE PLANT WHERE THEY PRINT THESE PAPERS HARRY!
3

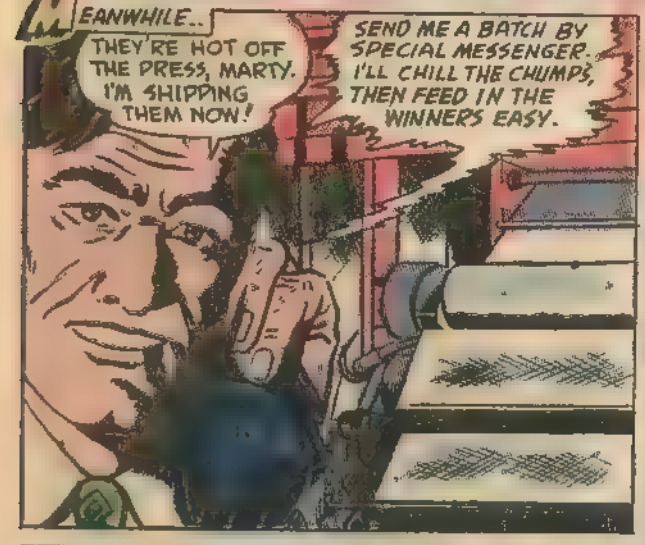
RACKET SQUAD IN ACTION

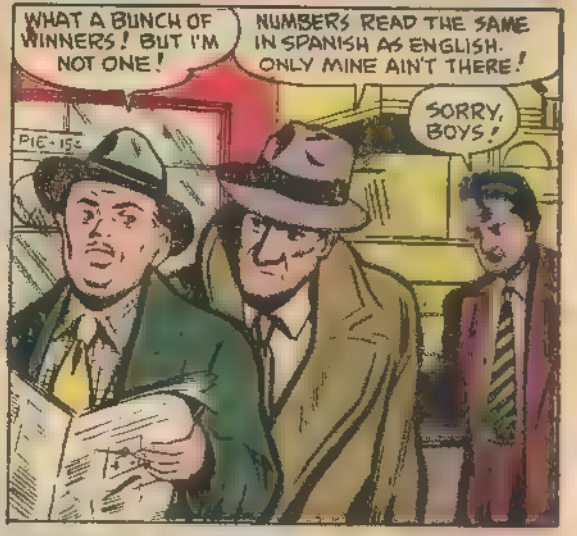
SEE? THE TYPE'S ALL SET, WITH THE DUMMY NUMBERS...
JUST AS I HOPED. ALL WE'VE GOT TO DO IS TO SLUG A FEW LIVE NUMBERS INTO THE SHEET..
..AND I'LL PEDDLE THE BOOKS WITH THOSE NUMBERS AMONG THE RIGHT GUYS SO WE CAN COLLECT!
GOOD IDEA. I'LL CALL THE NUMBERS, YOU SET 'EM
THAT'S MY MARTY!
AND SO DURING THE WEEKS THAT FOLLOWED, MARTY "SOLD" THE RIGHT TICKET TO THE "RIGHT" GUYS...
DON'T PAY ME ANY THING, SMOKEY. JUST HOLD THIS UNTIL I GIVE YOU THE WORD!
I GET IT, MARTY!
HERE'S YOURS, DINGO. SEEN MIKE AROUND?
YOU'RE LIKELY TO CATCH HIM AT JIM'S LUNCH ROOM, MARTY!
HOLD THIS FOR MIKE, JIM. IT'S BEEN PAID FOR.
OKAY, MARTY!
HOT TURKEY SANDWICH 85¢
IT'S TERRIFIC THE WAY YOU'VE PEDDLED THOSE PHONEY CHANCES! I HOPE YOU DON'T GET ANY BEEFS!
IF I DO, I'LL INTRODUCE THEM TO SOME FELLOWS WHO ACTUALLY DID WIN!
..AND MY STOOGES WILL PAY ME HALF OF WHAT THEY COLLECT ON THE NUMBERS THAT I RIGGED WITH HAVANA HARRY!
HOLD IT, MARTY. HERE'S ANOTHER CUSTOMER.. I MEAN SUCKER!
MARTY! I WANT A COUPLE OF THOSE!

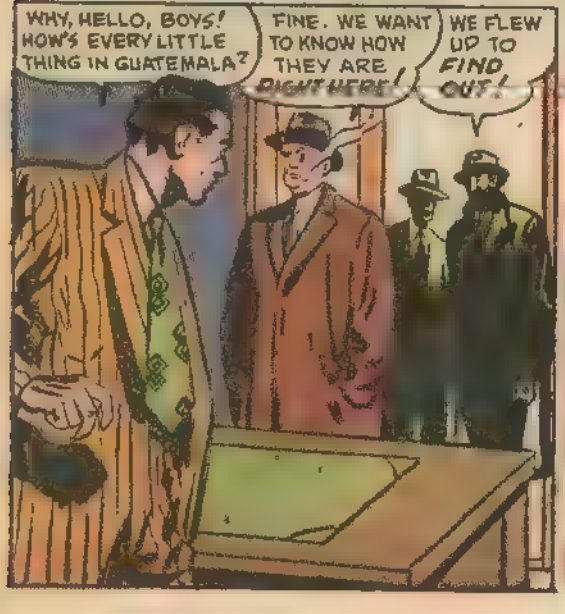
RACKET SQUAD IN ACTION

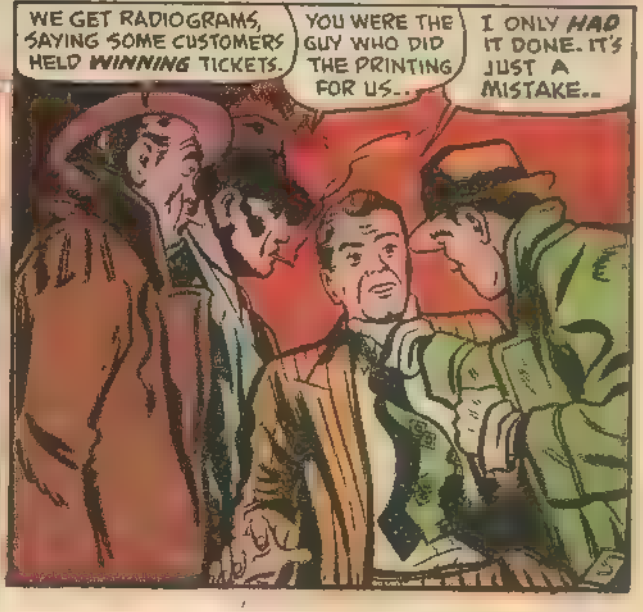

AND FINALLY!!!
HI, MARTY! WASN'T THAT SWEEPSTAKES RUN YET?
I TOOK TEN BUCKS WORTH OF THOSE TICKETS!
IT'S BEEN RUN BOYS, BUT THE RESULTS AREN'T OFFICIAL UNTIL THEY APPEAR IN THE GUATEMALA NEWSPAPER. I'LL HAVE COPIES IN TOMORROW!
WHEN DO WE KNOW IF WE WON?
LUNCH

I HOPE MARTY AIN'T STRINGING US!
HE BETTER NOT!
I SHOULD'VE TOLD MARTY THAT MIKE NEVER PICKED UP HIS TICKET! WELL, I GUESS IT WON'T WIN ANYWAY.


MEANWHILE..
THEY'RE HOT OFF THE PRESS, MARTY. I'M SHIPPING THEM NOW!
SEND ME A BATCH BY SPECIAL MESSENGER. I'LL CHILL THE CHUMPS, THEN FEED IN THE WINNERS EASY.






WE GET RADIOGRAMS, SAYING SOME CUSTOMERS HELD WINNING TICKETS.
YOU WERE THE GUY WHO DID THE PRINTING FOR US..
I ONLY HAD IT DONE. IT'S JUST A MISTAKE..

RACKET SQUAD IN ACTION

JUST A MISTAKE. THAT'S A GOOD LINE WE'LL FEED IT THROUGH THE AGENTS WHO SOLD THE WINNING TICKETS!
SURE! WHAT GOOD IS A RACKET IF IT DON'T PAY OFF 100%?
WE'LL STAY HERE UNDER COVER UNTIL IT'S ALL BEEN HANDLED!
LATER
ONLY THE BIG BOYS WON'T PAY. THEY CAME UP HERE TO SEE THAT NOBODY COLLECTS!
HOLY COW! THE MOB'S IN FROM GUATEMALA!
WE'D BETTER MAKE THE ROUNDS FAST AND SQUARE YOUR STOOGES, BEFORE YOU GET TAGGED FOR THE DOUBLE-CROSS!
SOMETHING WENT SOUR, SMOKEY. HERE'S A DOUBLE SAWBUCK TO FORGET IT!
MARTY WANTS YOU AND YOUR FRIENDS TO LAY OFF COLLECTING!
YOU'RE PAYING HALF A YARD FOR IT? THAT'S A COLLECTION IN ITSELF!
HOLY COW, JIM... YOU BOUGHT A WINNING TICKET!
IT'S MIKE'S, BUT HE HASN'T BEEN AROUND FOR IT. I'M GOING TO CASH IT FOR HIM!
BUT WE'RE TELLING YOU, THIS OFFICE IS CLOSED. IT'S ILLEGAL TO COLLECT!
YEAH? I'M GETTING ALL THAT'S COMING FOR THIS TICKET AND RIGHT NOW!
HERE'S WHAT'S COMING TO YOU RIGHT NOW!
BUT THAT ISN'T ALL YOU'LL GET IF YOU SPILL WHAT HAPPENED!
KEEP THE TICKET AND IF YOU TALK ABOUT IT, NEXT TIME WE'LL MAKE YOU EAT IT! THAT WILL SHUT YOUR MOUTH!

RACKET SQUAD IN ACTION

THAT WOULD HAVE SILENCED MOST CUSTOMERS BUT NOT JIM...YOU SEE, HIS HANDS WERE CLEAN BUT THE SWINDLERS DIDN'T REALIZE IT...HE WAS NOT COLLECTING FOR HIMSELF, BUT FOR A FRIEND CALLED MIKE... BEING HONEST, JIM CAME TO ME...

OF COURSE I COULD HAVE BOUGHT THE TICKET MYSELF.. THERE'S NO WAY THAT I CAN PROVE I DIDN'T. MAYBE IT'S ILLEGAL, MY EVEN OWNING IT...

WE'LL SKIP THAT POINT, JIM!

THE MAIN THING IS, YOU'VE GIVEN US A CONCISE, COHERENT STATEMENT, YOU'VE NAMED ONE MAN WHO SOLD THESE TICKETS, MARTY BLAKE. KEEP RIGHT ON TRYING TO COLLECT. WE'LL DO THE REST!

THE NEXT DAY..

I DON'T CARE IF IT'S MIKE'S TICKET, IT'S WORTH FIVE HUNDRED BUCKS TO ME!

LOOK...I'M OFFERING YOU A C-NOTE ON ACCOUNT. YOU WON'T TAKE IT... SO ALL RIGHT, GIVE ME TIME!

FUNNY, ALL THE DOUGH MARTY TOOK...AND NOW HE WON'T PAY OFF!

CIGARETTES

HEY, MARTY! WHO WERE SOME OF THE GUYS WHO WON? JUST NAME THEM!

DON'T ANSWER MARTY. JUST ACT... AND FAST!

O.K. WINNIE! YOU STALL HIM WHILE I DUCK IN THIS PHONE BOOTH!

...AND SINCE THE MOB WANTS IT THAT WAY HARRY, TELL THEM TO HANDLE JIM!

OKAY MARTY, BUT DON'T CALL ME AT THE PRINTERS AGAIN!

MY MAN WAS SHADOWING MARTY AND CAUGHT THE NUMBER THAT HE PHONED. THAT GAVE US A LEAD TO THE PRINTING PLANT, WHERE WE LEARNED...

LISTEN, HAVANA HARRY HAS TOLD US THAT THESE NEWSPAPERS ARE REALLY GOING TO HAVANA, AS FOR THE TICKETS, WE DIDN'T PRINT THEM!

GOOD ENOUGH, STEVE! CHECK ON HAVANA HARRY THROUGH MARTY BLAKE!

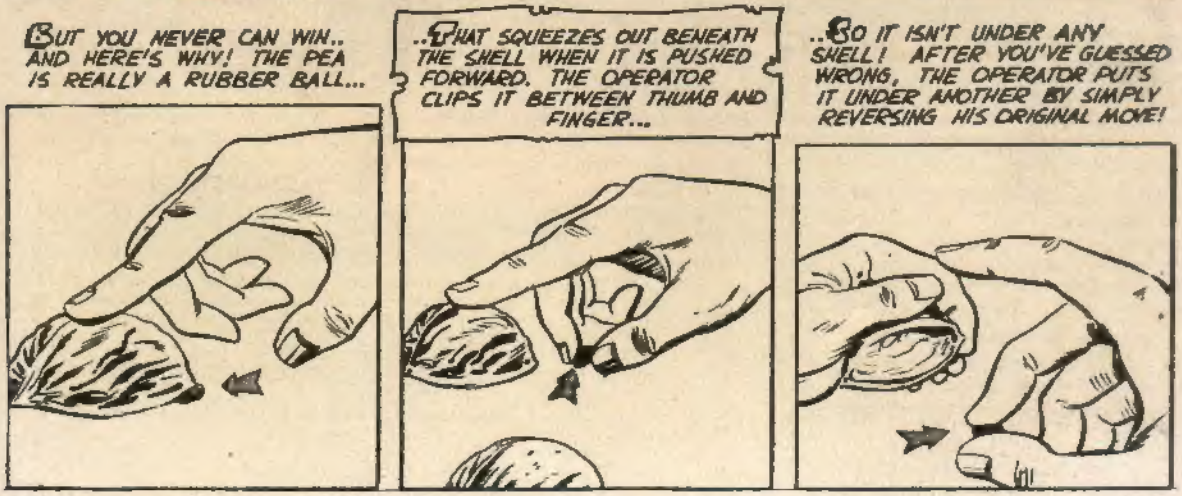
RIGHT CHIEF!

RACKET SQUAD IN ACTION

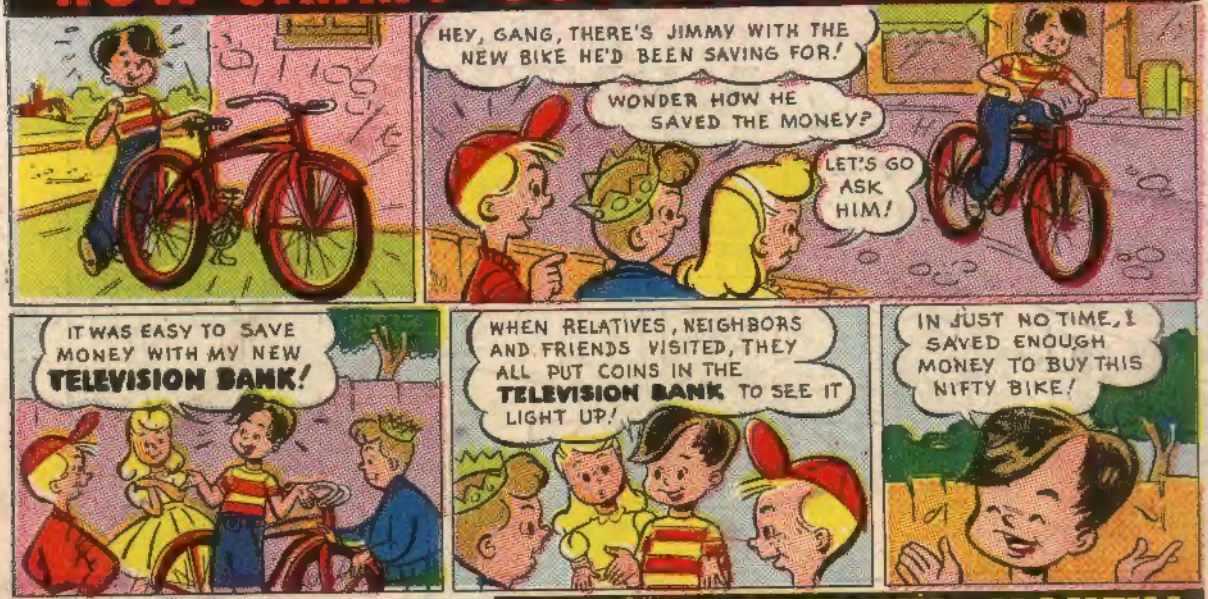
THE MOB SAYS WE'RE TO LET JIM GET LOUD-MOUTHED.. THEN THEY'LL MOVE IN AND HANDLE HIM.
GOOD ENOUGH. THAT WILL MAKE CLAMS OUT OF THE POOR LOSERS WHO HOLD BUM TICKETS!
YOU SEE, JIM? WE SAID LISTEN TO REASON...
ONLY HE DIDN'T
NO, NO.. O.K. O'MALLEY, MOVE IN WITH YOUR MEN!
WELL, WELL.. SO YOU BOYS ARE BACK!
AND BACK TO STAY A WHILE!
IT'S INSPECTOR O'MALLEY!
MEANWHILE AS O'MALLEY MEETS STEVE OUTSIDE..
SORRY I COULDN'T STEP INSIDE TO HELP YOU, INSPECTOR, BUT I WAS BUSY STOPPING THESE RATS.
WE DIDN'T NEED YOU, STEVE.. AND APPARENTLY YOU DIDN'T NEED US!
JIM'S LUNCH
JIM, IF EVERY CITIZEN WOULD TELL THE POLICE HIS TROUBLES THE WAY YOU DID, LAW AND ORDER WOULD GET THE JUMP ON CRIME EVERY TIME!
THANKS, INSPECTOR O'MALLEY!
THE MOBBIES FROM GUATEMALA WERE ALREADY WANTED, SO THEY TOOK A KING-SIZED PENALTY... HAVANA HARRY AND MARTY BLAKE HAD SO LINKED THEMSELVES WITH THE RACKET THAT THEY HADN'T A LEGAL LEG TO STAND ON... AND SINCE THEN, THE BIG SWEEPSTAKES SWINDLE HASN'T BEEN TRIED ANYWHERE!
J. J. O'Malley
The End

IT'S A RACKET!

The Old SHELL GAME
STEP RIGHT UP, FOLKS! HERE'S FUN FOR ALL! A GAME WHERE YOU CAN'T LOSE.. IF YOU LOOK SHARP! A PEA AND THREE WALNUT SHELLS...
AND I MOVE THE SHELLS AROUND... HERE.. THERE... OF COURSE YOU'RE FOLLOWING ME, SO PUT UP YOUR MONEY!
I COVER THE PEA WITH ONE SHELL.. SO...
..AND TELL ME, WHERE IS THE PEA? OVER THERE YOU THINK? YOU OUGHT TO KNOW.. SO I TURN IT UP!
WELL, WELL.. IT'S OVER HERE! WHAT DO YOU KNOW! I WIN THIS TIME.. BUT BETTER LUCK NEXT TIME! LET'S TRY AGAIN...
WHAT'S THAT.. NOT THERE?


BUT YOU NEVER CAN WIN.. AND HERE'S WHY! THE PEA IS REALLY A RUBBER BALL...
..WHAT SQUEEZES OUT BENEATH THE SHELL WHEN IT IS PUSHED FORWARD. THE OPERATOR CLIPS IT BETWEEN THUMB AND FINGER...
..SO IT ISN'T UNDER ANY SHELL! AFTER YOU'VE GUESSED WRONG, THE OPERATOR PUTS IT UNDER ANOTHER BY SIMPLY REVERSING HIS ORIGINAL MOVE!

HOW JIMMY GOT HIS NEW BIKE!


HEY, GANG, THERE'S JIMMY WITH THE NEW BIKE HE'D BEEN SAVING FOR!
WONDER HOW HE SAVED THE MONEY?
LET'S GO ASK HIM!
IT WAS EASY TO SAVE MONEY WITH MY NEW TELEVISION BANK!
WHEN RELATIVES, NEIGHBORS AND FRIENDS VISITED, THEY ALL PUT COINS IN THE TELEVISION BANK TO SEE IT LIGHT UP!
IN JUST NO TIME, I SAVED ENOUGH MONEY TO BUY THIS NIFTY BIKE!
HEY KIDS! WHERE ARE YOU GOING?
WE'RE GOING TO SEND IN OUR COUPONS FOR A TELEVISION BANK!

LOTS OF FUN AND MONEY!

WITH THIS

TELEVISION BANK

LIGHTS UP!

LIKE BIGGEST, COSTLIEST TELEVISION SETS!

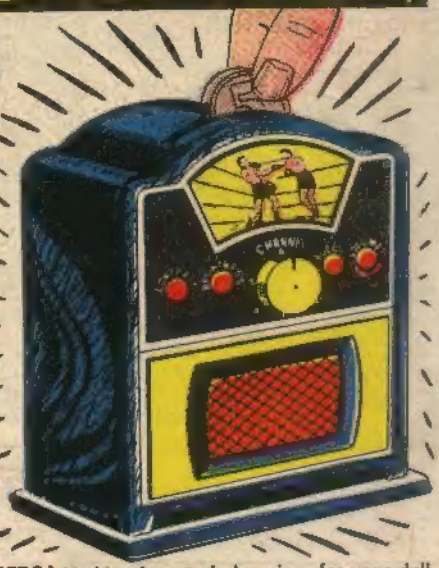
- SHOWS BRILLIANT PICTURES IN FULL COLOR!
- HITS EVERY TELEVISION HIGH . . . FIGHTS AND ALL!
- THRILLS YOU AND YOUR FRIENDS POP-EYED!
- AND . . . MAKES YOUR SAVINGS MOUNT UP FAST!

ALL-STEEL CONSTRUCTION

ONLY $1.98

COMPLETE WITH BATTERY AND BULB!

GUARANTEED to DELIGHT YOU! Bank comes complete with bulb, battery and strong key for opening and emptying your wealth of savings.



BIGGEST ATTRACTION EVER! Everyone will want to see this amazing new Television Bank. Your friends, relatives and neighbors can't resist putting in coins to see this sensational show!

LIGHTS UP THE INSTANT YOU DROP COIN! Just insert a penny, nickel, dime or quarter into the slot on top. In a split second your spectacular Television Bank lights up—in a big, BIG way! The screen leaps into dazzling life with the brightest, clearest, pictures yet!

TURN OF KNOB SHOWS NEXT EXCITING PICTURE! After you've looked your admiring fill at one picture, just turn center knob for next thrill-packed "show". Light goes out automatically as new picture appears. To light new picture, bank another coin. SIX exciting pictures—a fight, a hilarious cartoon, a tense rodeo scene, a swell figure skater, a dramatic dance team and a circus clown with his trick dog!

PUTS YOU "IN THE MONEY"—AND FAST! Your savings pile up PLENTY FAST with this marvelous new Television Bank! Everyone wants to see all six pictures—your savings grow and grow by leaps and bounds!

IT'S A HONEY IN EVERY DETAIL! This sensational Television Bank is an exact miniature of the most expensive console models. Rich-looking mahogany finish with four simulated dials and speaker grille. 4¾" x 4" and ruggedly constructed. Will give you years of fun and big savings!

GIRLS! DOLL HOUSE OWNERS! Nothing is so truly luxurious for your doll house. This beautiful new Television bank matches all styles of furniture. It makes an elegant addition to your doll's living room!

SEAGEE CO., Dept. CC3 , 2 Allen St., New York 2, N. Y.

BE THE FIRST IN YOUR CROWD TO HAVE THIS WONDERFUL NEW TELEVISION BANK! SEND NO MONEY! ORDER YOURS TODAY!

SEAGEE CO.,
Dept. CC3
2 Allen Street,
New York 2, N. Y.

Please rush me my TELEVISION BANK. I agree to pay postman $1.98 plus few cents postage with understanding that if I am not delighted I may return bank in 5 days for full refund of purchase price.

Name _____ (Please Print Plainly)

Street _____

City _____ Zone ____ State ____

☐ I enclose $1.98. You pay postage. Same money-back guarantee.